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## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- A method for prefetching web pages, comprising:
   determining whether an accessed web page has a set of user-preferred
  sub-pages from a plurality of sub-pages; and
   prefetching the set of user-preferred sub-pages.
  - 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of user-preferred sub-pages is based on the user's previous visits to the web page.
  - 3. The method of claim 1, wherein prefetching the set of user-preferred subpages occurs in an order dependent on a number of times the user has requested each one of the set of user-preferred sub-pages.
  - 4. The method of claim 2, wherein determining whether an accessed web page has the set of user-preferred sub-pages includes using learned user preferences including a history of the plurality of sub-pages visited by a user.
  - 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the learned user preferences further include a depth of history that determines a number of days previously that the history is used.
  - 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the learned user preferences further include a page depth that determines how many sub-pages within the web page are considered distinct.
  - 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of user-preferred sub-pages also contains additional sub-pages and sub-links corresponding to the additional sub-pages.
- 30 8. The method of claim 1, further including generating and storing the set of user-preferred sub-pages obtained during a user's previous visits to the web page.
  - 9. The method of claim 2, wherein the set of user-preferred sub-pages is a unique list of user-preferred sub-pages that orders the user-preferred sub-pages

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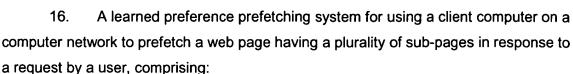
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depending on the frequency of a user's previous visits to each of the user-preferred subpages.

- 10. The method of claim 9, wherein prefetching is performed in an order set5 forth in the unique list of user-preferred sub-pages.
  - 11. A method for using a client on a computer network to request a web page from a web server, the web page having a plurality of sub-pages, the method comprising:
  - enabling a prefetching technique on the client such that some of the plurality of sub-pages can be retrieved and placed in a memory cache on the client; determining that a user has preferred sub-pages from the plurality of sub-pages based on the user's prior visits to the web page; and
  - using the prefetching technique to prefetch the preferred sub-pages prior to any other of the plurality of sub-pages..
  - 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the preferred sub-pages are generated using a history of which of the plurality of sub-pages a user requested during the user's prior visits.
  - 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the preferred sub-pages are further generated using a depth of history that reflects a frequency of request by the user for each one of the plurality of sub-pages.
- 25 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the preferred sub-pages are generated using a page depth that indicates how many of the plurality of sub-pages that are considered distinct.
- The method of claim 11, wherein the preferred sub-pages are a list of the preferred sub-pages placed in an order according to how often the user requested each one of the preferred sub-pages.





a prefetch module disposed on the client computer that allows the client computer to retrieve sub-pages of the web page; and

a learned preferences prefetch module in communication with the prefetch module that determines that the user has a set of preferred sub-pages from the plurality of sub-pages and uses the prefetch module to prefetch the set of preferred sub-pages.

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17. The learned preference prefetching system of claim 16, wherein the set of preferred sub-pages is generated using learned user preferences that include a history of which of the plurality of sub-pages were previously requested by the user during the user's previous visits to the web page.

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18. The learned preference prefetching system of claim 17, where the learned user preferences include a depth of history that determines a period of time over which the user has previously requested each one of the plurality of sub-pages.

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19. The learned preference prefetching system of claim 16, wherein the set of preferred sub-pages is a unique list having a preferred prefetch order based on the frequency of the user's previous request of each of the set of preferred sub-pages.

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20. The learned preference prefetching system of claim 19, wherein the learned preferences prefetch module uses the prefetch module to prefetch the set of preferred sub-pages in the preferred prefetch order.